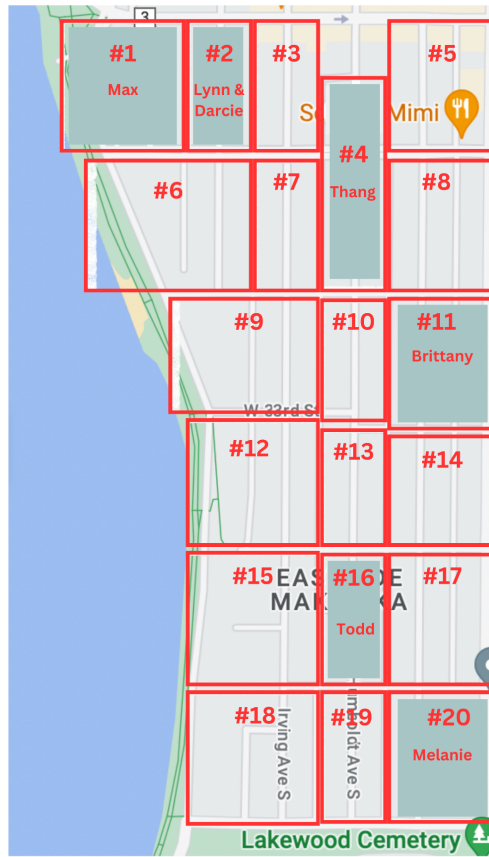


# 10/16/23 Livability Committee Meeting

Kari Kratbauer (Chair & Board), Bobbie Keller, Harry Savage (Board); Cuyler Dinegan (Staff); Craig Wilson (Hill & Lake Press); Keith Heiberg, Terry Harris, Dave McIntosh, Mark Paller, Katy Vermeer, Velma Wagner (residents)

- **Volunteer(s) needed: Minneapolis Parks & Rec District-wide meeting**
  - Nov. 2, 5–6:30pm at the Kenwood Rec Center (2101 W Franklin Ave)
    - *One issue we all observed this past growing season was trees under stress due to lack of water. The purpose of this meeting between MPRB forestry and community leadership is for community to hear about forestry’s watering work and ask questions, as well as brainstorm ideas for neighborhood initiatives to support this*
    - *I hope to have all 13 neighborhoods of our park district represented to be able to share this information with their neighborhood association boards and the broader community. Are there 2-3 individuals from your neighborhood board or other interested community members who would be available to attend?*
      - No one.
      - Cuyler: Add this to the next neighborhood email
      - Kari: forward opportunity to Terry Harris
  
- **Bde Maka Ska Pavillion soft opening last week (opens Oct. 20)**
  - Attended, had a nice time! Bathroom’s also open already, and full opening is Oct. 20!
    - 2 different buildings - 1) Pimento on the Lake doing walk-up to order food, pull-your-own taps (seasonal), 2) Pimento Market selling (year-round); small amphitheater for live music; featuring BIPOC artists
    - Bobbie: 3x as much seating as the old Pavilion, was only open in summer - this has more interesting features going on
  - Res: Open tonight, too!
  
- **Safety Team Updates**
  - [Biweekly Safety Walks](#)
    - Mondays, meet 7am at Duet Coffee (Daymark)
    - Saturdays, meet 10am at St. Mary’s north lot
    - Kari: Been doing Saturdays for a while, just started Mondays. No one’s coming....
      - Res: What about later on a weeknight?
      - **Kari:** Will surface this at our next Board meeting
  - Block Captains ([guide](#) and [application](#)) (Thang - absent)
    - Monthly meeting at Lake & Irving; check in for existing Captains, opportunity for others to get more info and apply

- **Block captains map so far - 6/20 blocks covered:**



- Security Comms (Thang - absent)
- [Violence Interrupters](#) (Cuyler)
  - With the help of Ward 10 CM Chughtai we're coordinating with the City's Neighborhood Safety Dept, which as you can imagine is very busy right now. More to come.
  - **Cuyler:** ~~Follow up with Judy Shields about UA contracting with Interrupters still:~~
    - They are not. They contracted through Neighborhood Safety Dept, who Cuyler is currently coordinating with
- Walker Library Encampment
  - Terry: 3 tents in addition to pile of stuff, blocking sidewalk. I've called 311 three times, written to Mayor and Commissioner Greene. On Sat. night, I emailed Kare11, asking them to look at this. Services person across the street is offering to assist, NO one is responding to them.
    - Another encampment at 31st/1st, more in the area
    - Please share your stories, if you don't it creates a false narrative that it doesn't have an impact on the neighborhood. I want people to find the services they need, but if it becomes socially acceptable to tent outside the library that becomes part of the menu of where to camp.

- 5th Precinct Insp. Christie Nelson: *I was just there talking to folks alongside Hennepin Co. Chatted with one camper about him stressing folks out, he understood and packed up. Another gets shelter later this week. Please contact 311 if issues persist.*
  - Kari: Library says to call the Commissioner Greene directly.
    - Terry: Call all the [County Commissioners](#) to force their hand, take action
    - Harry: I imagine Comm. Greene is remembering folks squatting outside her house in protest
    - Terry: I remember, but that is not an acceptable response to a civic responsibility
  - Dave: Many of them used to be at transit station (ousted), then park (ousted), it seems sidewalk gets the least resistance to their squatting
  
- **Hill & Lake Press Discussion - editor Craig Wilson**
  - We are bulk mail to every single mailbox throughout our 4 neighborhoods. Currently doing a 3-month trial delivering to West Maka Ska and East Bde Maka Ska too - good feedback!
    - 9,000 circulation, trying 15,000 for 3 months
    - Populations:
      - Kenwood: 1,064 + LH: 3,877 + Cidna: 3,753 + East Isles: 3,702 = 12,396
      - East Bde Maka Ska: 2,400 + West Maka Ska: 2,645 = 5,045
  - We've tripled advertising since I started, but need more to make it sustainable
  - Articles are fact-checked, AP style, employ trained retired journalists
  - Critical of local government, creates community when we need it most
    - Bobbie: Kudos to you, for making it this far. I worked for East Calhoun Newsletter for years, but we eventually closed like all the other neighborhood papers
  - Trying to shore up community through this, want to make sure I do everything I can to help with this paper
  - Looking for a 12-month, half-page ad to cover circulation increase: \$6,350 from EBMSNA
    - EBMSNA Board: Discuss this, if feasible and how
  
- **YWCA Uptown / Uptown Businesses Update**
  - Kari: MPD is keeping an eye on YWCA, closing Nov. 1
    - Up for sale, group of people pushing for keeping it a fitness center
    - Terry: I think we need to get out ahead of anything happening at YWCA, "We expect you are going to do something as it is a known risk"
    - Cuyler: Letter / YWCA Meetings
  - Harry: 'Skid Row' was an interesting doc around this, removing temp housing that homeless would've otherwise used
    - Terry: I'm excited for Simpson Housing, unit in Whittier being torn down for better/bigger housing
    - Craig: I work at Hill & Lake Press, but my day job is with [Avivo](#), a nonprofit working in low-barrier housing stability, recovery services (interviewed encamped folks)
      - People want their own spaces to heal and recover, house them and their things so they don't need to guard them all the time
      - Waiting list of 600-700 people, looking to dev something new near Lake/Hiwatha - City recently allocated money toward this

- Terry: How many units do we need to reach the point where we can say, “Camping isn’t an option anymore, we have places for you”
  - There are thousands of homeless in the City. Typically house folks for 160 days, works for the majority of people but not everyone. Challenge is, cities like Minneapolis are afraid if we build more infrastructure for the homeless, we become a magnet
  - C:100 units is the max to effectively create a sense of community and manage 100 people
- Terry: Do we have data around becoming a magnet, or is that an urban myth?
  - C: My expertise is around spatial design to create solutions. Data-driven solutions are best, Avivo does a good job providing dignity in these services, create rapport/trust
- Mark: Is it scalable to the level of magnitude we need right now?
  - C: Yes. And there are many other services out there as well. Things will get better. It does take a lot of resources to do this effectively, know that.
- Library?
  - C: My guess is the City won’t tolerate it there for long. The City’s policy is to break up encampments.
- Kari: What would you recommend a neighborhood do?
  - Craig: Good idea, I can give you contact info for Sheila who works with communities addressing this. Ultimately professionals will have to tend
- Terry: How do we identify/support professionals? We talked about someone offering to help across the street, received no response. I feel completely impotent, can’t get help for them.
  - C: Avivo, Simpson, etc are the ones to resource this. It’s also totally valid to want your community space back, your library back
  - C: Also, we’ve created mostly housing for the middle class, rather than catering as well to folks experiencing homelessness. This is happening all over, Dakota Co, Duluth, etc.

### Upcoming Events:

- [Biweekly Safety Walks](#) (Mon mornings from Duet Coffee in Daymark / Sat mornings from St Mary’s north lot)
- [Ward 10 Candidate Forum](#): Oct. 26, 6:30–8pm at Abyssinia Cultural Center (322 W Lake St)
- [2023 Annual Meeting](#): Nov. 2, 6–8:30pm at St. Mary’s Terrace Room
  - Free pizza + drinks, but bring a side or dessert if you like!
  - **Board Nominations are open** - we’re looking to fill 10 Board seats, some for 1-year terms, some for 2-year terms - consider applying and please share with your neighbors